

My future is in Russia

1 READING Lev Klein: Russian Archaeologist and Theoretician

Lev Samuilovich Klein (1927–2019) was a prominent Russian archaeologist, historian, and one of the most **influential** theoreticians of archaeology in the Soviet Union and post-Soviet Russia. He is best known for his contributions to archaeological theory and methodology, as well as his **bold**, often controversial, challenges to established academic norms.

Klein graduated from Leningrad State University and later became a professor there. His academic work spanned a wide range of subjects, including classical archaeology, the archaeology of Northern Europe, **ethnogenesis**, and the philosophy of science. One of his major achievements was introducing **rigorous** scientific approaches into Soviet archaeology, which had previously been heavily influenced by Marxist ideology.

In the 1970s, Klein became known for advocating for archaeology as an independent scientific discipline, rather than a branch of history. This position, along with his open criticism of dogmatic approaches, led to conflicts with Soviet authorities. In 1981, he was arrested on **politically motivated charges** and

dismissed from the university, though he was later **acquitted** and reinstated.

Klein published numerous works, including the influential book *Structure of Archaeological Theory*, in which he developed a comprehensive framework for archaeological analysis. His writings **emphasized** the importance of theory in archaeology, encouraging critical thinking and methodological pluralism.

Lev Klein played a **crucial role** in modernizing Russian archaeology and mentoring a new generation of **scholars**. His legacy lives on through his publications and the students he inspired.

influential – влиятельный

bold – смелый, дерзкий

ethnogenesis – этногенез

(формирование этнической группы или нации)

rigorous – строгий, тщательный, точный, ревностный

politically motivated charges – политически-мотивированные обвинения

acquitted – оправдан

emphasized – отмечал, акцентировал

crucial role – ключевое / решающее значение

scholars – ученые

Discuss in pairs:

1. What were Lev Klein's main contributions to the field of archaeology?
2. Why did Klein face conflicts with Soviet authorities in the 1970s?
3. What is the significance of Klein's book *Structure of Archaeological Theory*?
4. How did Lev Klein influence future generations of archaeologists?

2 SKILLS Profile cases

Do the tasks according to your field of studies.

1. Imagine you are a young archaeologist in the Soviet Union during the 1970s. Would you support Lev Klein's call for archaeology to become an independent science, even if it meant risking your academic career? Why or why not?
2. Lev Klein emphasized the importance of theory in archaeology. In your opinion, how important is theoretical thinking in scientific disciplines? Can too much theory become a limitation? Discuss with examples.

3. Klein challenged ideological control over science. How should modern scholars respond when political or ideological pressures interfere with academic freedom? What lessons can be learned from Klein's experience?

